

**Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool** 

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## CSP-2017-1\_NH - NH BF AG Lands\_Crop Perennial

## **Soil Erosion**

## **Sheet and Rill Erosion**

P	lanning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	creening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10%. ssessment level: The water erosion rate is <= T.	Yes	No 🗌
E	valuation Tests	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
A	ll hayed acres maintain at least 90 percent cover all year.	Yes	No 🗌
CI	he orchard or vineyard floor is covered by protective plants during ritical erosion periods. <state asy="" be="" critical="" different="" erosion="" list;="" of="" period(s)="" provides="" regions="" same="" state="" the="" within=""></state>	Yes	No 🗌
<b>Epho</b>	emeral Gully Erosion		
P	lanning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
C	creening level: Ephemeral gullies are not occuring. Assessment level: onservation practices and managements are in place to prevent or ontrol ephemeral gullies.	Yes	No
E	valuation Tests	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
	Il temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas appected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No 🗌



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## **Classic Gully Erosion**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Classic gullies are not present. Assessment level: Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No 🗌



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# **Soil Quality Degradation**

## **Compaction**

Planning Criteria	Planning C	riteria Met
Screening level: Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems. Assessment level: Compaction is managed to meet client's production and management objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation	Test Met
Soil moisture is tested to reduce soil compaction. Typical methods include moisture-by-feel or moisture meters.	Yes	No 🗌



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## **Excess Water**

## **Runoff and Flooding and Ponding**

Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Crit</b>	eria Met
Screening level: Ponding or flooding not a problem AND activities do not cause ponding/flooding problems. Assessment level: Excess water is managed to meet client's objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation To</b>	est Met
Deep rooted tree and shrub species are utilized to encourage infiltration and reduce runoff, flooding, or ponding.	Yes	No
Excessive water runoff, flooding, and water ponding are not concerns; or measures are applied such as grassed waterways, terraces, diversions, filter strips to reduce excessive runoff; or if flooding is a concern crops and field activities are managed within the seasonal flooding periods; or where ponding is a concern land leveling or shallow surface drains prevent ponding of water that limits crop production.	Yes	No



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## **Insufficient Water**

#### **Inefficient Moisture Management**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Moisture management is not a problem AND activities do not cause inefficient moisture management problems. Assessment level: Runoff and evapotranspiration levels are minimized to meet client's management objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation T	est Met
The existing plant community was selected to efficiently utilize available moisture.	Yes	No 🗌



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# **Water Quality Degradation**

#### **Nutrients in Surface Water**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed. Assessment level: Nutrient and amendment applications are based on soil or tissue tests and nutrient budgets for realistic yields AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation T</b>	est Met
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas.	Yes	No
If nutrients are applied, a nutrient budget is used to determine all application rates, including: - Realistic yield goals, - Nutrient uptake requirements, and - Available nutrient accounting for each of the following: (a) N, P, K from representative soil tests (<= 3yrs), (b) Soil organic matter mineralization, (c) Legumes in rotation, (d) Previous applications of manure and other organic based materials, (e) Planned post-harvest residual soil test levels, (f) Available nutrient analysis for each nutrient source, and (g) Available nutrient uptake efficiencies from planned application rate, source, method, timing and placement. All state specific application setbacks are maintained for all nutrient applications.	Yes	No
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes	No



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## **Nutrients in Ground Water**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND PLU is not grazed. Assessment level: Nutrient and amendment applications are based on soil or tissue tests and nutrient budgets for realistic yields AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize ground water impacts.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	est Met
If nutrients are applied, a nutrient budget is used to determine all application rates, including: - Realistic yield goals, - Nutrient uptake requirements, and - Available nutrient accounting for each of the following: (a) N, P, K from representative soil tests (<= 3yrs), (b) Soil organic matter mineralization, (c) Legumes in rotation, (d) Previous applications of manure and other organic based materials, (e) Planned post-harvest residual soil test levels, (f) Available nutrient analysis for each nutrient source, and (g) Available nutrient uptake efficiencies from planned application rate, source, method, timing and placement. All state specific application setbacks are maintained for all nutrient applications.	Yes	No
cess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Surface Water	· Compost A	<u>pplications</u>
Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Crit</b>	eria Met
Screening level: Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land. Assessment level: Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
Livestock access to streams is limited to short periods of time and small areas.	Yes	No 🗌



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#### **Excessive Sediment in Surface Water**

Planning Criteria	Planning Cri	teria Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover $> 90\%$ and slope $< 10\%$ AND classic gullies are not present AND streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site. Assessment level: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies AND the SVAP2 - bank condition $>= 5$ AND the livestock and vehicle water crossings are stable AND The water erosion rate is $<= T$ AND wind erosion rate is $<= T$ .	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation T</b>	est Met
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized.	Yes	No



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# **Air Quality Impacts**

#### **Emissions of Ozone Precursors**

Planning Criteria	Planning C	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Operations are not present that produce ozone precursor emissions. Ozone precursor producing activities are: Engines (combustion source), Pesticide application, Burning, CAFO/manure management, Fertilization (manure/commercial). Assessment level: Ozone precursor emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No	
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation	Test Met	
Ozone precursor producing activities are minimized by using one or more of the following activities: Reducing combustible engines exhaust via TIER 4 engine, applying IPM principles for pesticide applications, injection or incorporation of manure, nitrogen fertilizer incorportation or use of a nitrogen stabilizer.  Emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	Yes	No	
Planning Criteria	Planning C	riteria Met	
Screening level: Activities are not present that produce GHGs emissions. GHG producing activities are: Fertilization(manure/commercial), CAFO/manure management, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, AND GHGs are not regulated in this planning area. Assessment level: Greenhouse gas emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.		No	
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation	Test Met	
If Nitrogen is applied, Nitrogen is applied as close as possible to croquptake needs at the recommended rates.	p Yes	No 🗌	



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# **Degraded Plant Condition**

## **Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health**

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	Screening level: Plant production and health is not a client concern. Assessment level: Plants are adapted to the site, meet production goals and do not negatively impact other resources AND plant damage from wind erosion is below Crop Damage Tolerance levels.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
	Plants and crops are adapted to the soil and site conditions and produce average yield levels for the county in typical years.	Yes	No
Ex	cessive Plant Pest Pressure		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Screening level: Plant productivity is not limited from pest pressure. Assessment level: Pest damage to plants are below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria AND plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
	Weeds, insects, and diseases do not limit crop production.	Yes	No 🗌



Natural Resources Conservation Service CONSERVATION

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# Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat

#### **Inadequate Habitat - Food**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR food is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation T	Cest Met
Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruptionchemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes	No
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, AND - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater.	Yes	No
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help chosen wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No 🗌



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## **Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation T</b>	est Met
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes	No
Forage harvests cover patterns and minimum plant heights are planned for a desired wildlife species. <see action="" list="" plan="" species="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No 🗌
All stream banks show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.	Yes	No
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help chosen wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No
The stream(s) have: - a natural, unaltered configuration, with minimal channel straightening, dredging, or bank alteration by armoring with rip-rap or other non-natural materials, - stable banks with limited erosion or bank failure, and - human uses and/or grazing levels that do not negatively impact bank condition.	Yes	No
Established field borders are kept as wildlife cover and as pollinator/beneficial insect habitat.	Yes	No
Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruptionchemical, biological, or mechanical	Yes	No



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## CSP-2017-1\_NH - NH BF AG Lands\_Crop Perennial **Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)**

Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Cri</b>	teria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No 🗌
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help chosen wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No 🗌
Designated areas are planted as habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. Non-cropped area protected from disruption during nesting and foraging periodschemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes	No
Established field borders are kept as wildlife cover and as pollinator/beneficial insect habitat.	Yes	No 🗌
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, AND - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater.	Yes	No
In-stream structures (dam, diversion structure, bridge, culvert, low-water stream crossing, etc.) allow for the upstream/downstream movement of fish and other aquatic animals throughout most of the year.	Yes	No
People, vehicles, equipment, or livestock are only moved across a stream/river at a bridge, culvert, or stabilized ford crossing(s). Travel across the stream/river beyond these crossings is controlled.	Yes	No



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# **Livestock Production Limitation**

## **Inadequate Feed and Forage**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifer, livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed.		No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation Te	st Met
The existing feed/forage quantity/quality meet the livestock needs and goals.	Yes	No



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# **Inefficient Energy Use**

## **Equipment and Facilities**

	Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Crite</b>	eria Met
	Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major components of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
	Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed equipment and facilities on the farm. For example, energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, heating, or building insulation have been improved.	Yes	No
<u>Fa</u>	rming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major components of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
	Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed field operations on the farm. For example, energy loss from driven equipment, irrigation, or pumping have been improved.	Yes	No